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February 21, 1967

Honorable Richard Helms, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

This letter is written in regret mixed with pleasure.

Our regret stems from the fact that your nominee for our Career Service Award, Dr. R. J. Smith, was not selected for 1967. Our pleasure derives from the opportunity tell you that he came very close to winning and was among the finalists given most serious consideration by our Committee.

It is always difficult - sometimes nearly impossible - to pass a relative judgment on the very obvious great merit of the finalists who have been picked from the many nominations submitted. This was especially true this year. In fact, it is real credit to your nominating process that Dr. Smith was among the few who survived three very rigorous screenings. Thus, I congratulate you and him on behalf of our Selection Committee and urge you to consider a renomination next year.

Sincerely,

Jean J. Couturier
Jean J. Couturier

JJC:k

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